

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the original Abstract with the following new Abstract:

A method is provided for setting a dominant color using a spatial coherency in order to improve performance of an image search function. The method includes describing an image region based on several dominant colors, a frequency of each dominant color, and a spatial coherency (SC) of the dominant color. In the method, the spatial coherency is non-uniformly quantized based on a predetermined threshold. For example, the spatial coherency (SC) may be ranged from 0 to 1 and the threshold may be set to 0.70.